



# Proposed Revisions to Chapter 4 of the County Code: *Animals*

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HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DECEMBER 10, 2014

# Background

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The Virginia General Assembly has made many changes to the Commonwealth's laws governing animal care during the past 6 years

The majority of the changes proposed in Ordinance 14-05 are to bring the County Code up to date to reflect those state law changes

The other proposed changes –

- Are motivated by the County's experience with enforcing two particular sections;
- Reflect recommendations from the Health Department; and
- Add a new section authorized by state law

# Revisions Based on State Law Changes

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Major changes include:

- Terms and definitions, including replacing the term “Pound” with “Public Animal Shelter”
- The new procedures for dealing with “Dangerous Dogs,” including the court procedures, the Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry and the fees associated with the Registry
- The new procedures for dealing with “Vicious Dogs”

# Changes Based on Experience

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## Nuisance Animals (Section 4-78)

- 3 years of experience since the section was added to the County Code
- Proposed changes include –
  - Clarifying that it's animal behavior that creates a public nuisance
  - Requiring that there be 2 instances of the animal behaviors listed in Section 4-78 to constitute a public nuisance.

# Changes Based on Experience

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## Permit Required to Keep Wild, Exotic or Vicious Animals (Section 4-80)

- Proposed changes include –
  - Requiring the permitted animals owned by a permit applicant to be subject to regular inspections by Animal Control
  - Requiring a permit applicant to obtain a surety bond or liability insurance of \$100,000 to cover incidents involving permitted animals
  - Authorizing Animal Control to destroy a wild/exotic/vicious animal running at large if necessary to protect public safety
  - Authorizing the recovery of the County's costs in locating, capturing and disposing of a wild/exotic/vicious animal

# Changes Based on Health Dep't Recommendations

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## Confinement of Biting Animals (Section 4-19)

- Proposed change would require a 10 day confinement of a “companion animal” only if –
  - It bites a human or
  - It has been bitten by a wild animal

This is consistent with Health Department recommendations

# Addition of New Section

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## Dogs Killing, Injuring or Chasing Livestock or Poultry (4-73)

- The Code of Virginia authorizes localities to adopt an ordinance that authorizes animal control –
  - To seize or kill dogs in the act of killing or injuring livestock or poultry
  - To seize and examine dogs an ACO believes are killing livestock or poultry and
  - To obtain a warrant requiring a dog owner to appear before the General District Court to determine if the dog is a livestock killer and should therefore be killed or removed from the state.

# Recommended Motion

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Motion to authorize advertisement of a public hearing

To be held January 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

For Ordinance 14-05, Amendment to Hanover County Code, Chapter 4, Animals, to Bring into Compliance with State Law and to Reflect Current or Recommended Practices



Questions?